

REMARKS

In the Response to Restriction Requirement filed on April 4, 2003, Claims 16-22 and 26-29 were canceled without prejudice. Applicants note that the Examiner erroneously states at page 2 of the Office Action that "This application contains claims 16 to 22 and 26 to 29 drawn to an invention non-elected without traverse in Paper No. 7." Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's erroneous statement.

The disclosure has been updated.

The Examiner states:

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant's related application information should be updated. (Office Action, page 2.)

Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Amendment filed August 27, 2003, in which the attorney docket number was replaced with the corresponding U.S. Patent Application Serial Number. Accordingly, the informality noted by the Examiner was previously corrected in the Amendment filed August 27, 2003..

For the above reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure.

Claims 1-15, 23-25 and 30-41 are novel over Roberts, Jr. et al.

Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner states:

Roberts, Jr. et al. ... show a wafer 10 comprising: a first surface (**top of 10**); a second surface (**bottom of 10**); **a first scribe line 12** coupled to said first surface, said first scribe line extending in a first direction; **a second scribe line 12** coupled to said first surface, said second scribe line extending in a

second direction perpendicular to said first direction; and **a first alignment mark (50) formed at an intersection of said first scribe line and said second scribe line**, said first alignment mark extending from said first surface to said second surface. (Office Action, page 3, emphasis added and in original.)

The Examiner's statement is respectfully traversed. The Examiner asserts that Roberts, Jr. et al. teaches "a first alignment mark (50)". In stark contrast, Roberts, Jr. et al. teaches that the element 50 is an individual die after singulation of the wafer 32.

Specifically, Roberts, Jr. et al. teaches:

A camera 42 is positioned above the slot so that the camera can obtain the image of the wafer 32 and the **individual dies 50, 52, 54, 56, etc.** (Col. 9, lines 25-27, emphasis added.)

Further, the Examiner asserts "a first scribe line 12", "a second scribe line 12" and "a first alignment mark (50) formed at an intersection of said first scribe line and said second scribe line".

In stark contrast, Roberts, Jr. et al. teaches that the "streets 12" define the boundaries of each individual die and that the wafer is sawed along the streets to singulate the dies. Accordingly, an individual die such as die 50 is not formed at an intersection of streets 12 to avoid sawing through and destroying the die and the Examiner has failed to call out where Roberts, Jr. et al. teaches or suggests "a first alignment mark (50) formed at an intersection of said first scribe line and said second scribe line".

Specifically, Roberts, Jr. et al. teaches:

Streets 12 are simply areas of the wafer where no componentry has been placed and which **define the boundaries of each individual die 14.** ... The individual dies 14 comprising a wafer are removed from the wafer **by sawing through the wafer along all of the streets, thus physically separating the wafer in both axes into**

the individual dies. (Col. 1, lines 24-33, emphasis added.)

For at least the above reasons, Roberts, Jr. et al. does not teach or suggest a wafer comprising:

a first surface;
a second surface;
a first scribe line coupled to said first surface,
said first scribe line extending in a first direction;
a second scribe line coupled to said first
surface, said second scribe line extending in a second
direction perpendicular to said first direction; and
**a first alignment mark formed at an intersection
of said first scribe line and said second scribe line,**
said first alignment mark extending from said first
surface to said second surface,

as recited in Claim 1, emphasis added. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over Roberts, Jr. et al. Claims 2-15, 30, 41, which depend from Claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Claims 23, 37 and 40 are allowable for reasons similar to Claim 1. Claims 24-25, 31-36, which depend from Claim 23, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 23. Claims 38-39, which depend from Claim 37, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 37.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 30 and 31 are patentable over Roberts, Jr. et al.

As discussed above, Claims 30 and 31 are allowable over Roberts, Jr. et al.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion.

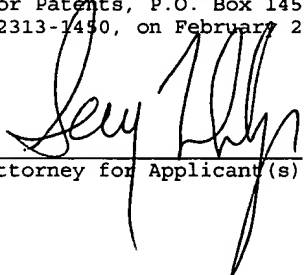
Claims 1-15, 23-25, and 30-41 are pending in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants

Appl. No. 09/803,084
Resp. Dated Feb. 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 25, 2003

respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

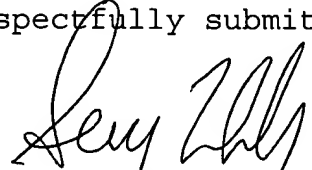
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 23, 2004.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

February 23, 2004
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


Serge J. Hodgson
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 40,017
Tel.: (831) 655-0880